

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7158
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 579
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 9237

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XF BU YO GR RO UR TU AL
SUBJ: ROMANIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ON BALKAN DEVELOPMENTS
REF: SOFIA 2553 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUERY CONCERNING
STATUS AND PROSPECTS FOR BALKAN MULTILATERAL COOPERATION
DURING DECEMBER 28 CALL, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
VASILE GLIGA ADDED FOLLOWING NEW ELEMENTS TO WHAT WE
HAVE PREVIOUSLY HEARD FROM ROMANIANS ON THIS TOPIC:
-- BULGARIANS HAVE NOT ONLY FAILED TO RESPOND WITH
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COMMENTS TO PROJECTS SUGGESTED AT ATHENS MEETING, BUT
HAVE ENTERED SPECIFIC RESERVATIONS ABOUT MULTI-
LATERAL COOPERATION IN CSCE CONTEXT, AND EXPRESSED
VIEW THAT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS BETWEEN BALKAN STATES
SHOULD BE DISCUSSED ON BILATERAL BASIS.
-- NOT ONLY DOES GOR SEE NO REASON WHY BILATERAL
ISSUES CANNOT BE DISCUSSED IN TANDEM WITH MULTILATERAL

TOPICS LIKE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION, BUT BELIEVES SUCH DISCUSSION SHOULD FORM PART OF INTER-EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE EFFORTS.

-- ONE REASON WHY THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF NOTE CONCERNING BALKAN COOPERATION IS THAT BELGRADE CSCE MEETING, WITH NEED TO CONCLUDE SUCCESSFUL FINAL DOCUMENT, HAS INTERVENED. AFTER BELGRADE MEETING, HOWEVER, FINAL DOCUMENT WILL BE REVIEWED FROM POINT OF VIEW, AMONG OTHERS, OF POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVING INTER-BALKAN COOPERATION.

-- THERE IS SOME QUESTION AS TO ADVISABILITY OF TAKING NEXT STEP AT FOREIGN MINISTERS' OR OTHER POLITICALLY RESPONSIBLE LEVEL.

2. COMMENT: AS FOLLOW UP TO SOFIA'S EXCELLENT ANALYSIS (REFTEL) WE WOULD NOTE:

-- EXPLICIT CONFIRMATION THAT BULGARIA HAS ENTERED RESERVATION ON BALKAN MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN CSCE CONTEXT;

IMPLICIT CONFIRMATION THAT CSCE FINAL DOCUMENT LANGUAGE ON BALKANS IS NOW LIKELY TO BE LESS FORTHRIGHT, AS RESULT OF BULGARIAN RESERVATION, THAN ROMANIANS ORIGINALLY HOPED;

-- REAFFIRMATION, NEVERTHELESS, OF ROMANIAN INTENTION TO SQUEEZE THE BALKANS UNDER CSCE, PAN-EUROPEAN UMBRELLA IF AT ALL POSSIBLE IN POST-CONFIDENTIAL

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BELGRADE PERIOD, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION; AND

-- REAFFIRMATION--PERHAPS REFLECTING FRUSTRATION MORE THAN SERIOUS INTENTION AT THIS POINT--OF ROMANIAN INTEREST IN USING POLITICAL-LEVEL TALKS TO SHAKE BALKAN PROCESS OUT OF CURRENT DOLDRUMS.
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